REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by patent no. 6,310,769 to Johnson et al., while claims 10-13 and 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Johnson et al. in view of one or more of patent nos. 6,005,768 to Jo, 5,666.239 to Pottebaum, 5,333,098 to DeLuca et al. and 5,195,022 to Hoppal et al.

Claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2-5 have been amended to change the dependency thereof from claim 1 to claim 7.

A significant aspect of the invention is the provision of a combination of a disk drive assembly and a channel-shaped mounting bracket therefor which effectively damps vibrations. In particular, it has been found that where the disk drive assembly has an integral printed circuit board thereon, significant advantages flow from mounting the assembly on the bracket so that the PCB faces toward the base wall of the channel-shaped bracket. In order to bring out this distinguishing aspect of the invention, claim 7 has been amended to specify that the disk drive assembly has "an integral printed circuit board on one side thereof" and to further recite that the disk drive assembly is supported on the bracket "with the printed circuit board facing the base wall" of the bracket. Such an arrangement is already recited in independent claim 16, although that claim has been amended to specify "an integral" PCB on the disk drive assembly. It is submitted that this arrangement is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

The only reference which explicitly discloses a disk drive assembly with a printed circuit board is Pottebaum, but Pottebaum discloses a discrete, removable PCB 92 which is supported by an external chassis 90, which also supports the base deck of the disk assembly. A disk drive assembly with an integral PCB is not disclosed. In Pottebaum the chassis 90, which corresponds to applicants' bracket, is interposed between the PCB and the rest of the disk drive assembly.

Accordingly, it is believed that, as amended, claims 7 and 16 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references.

Another aspect of the invention, as set forth in claims 14 and 22 new claim 23, is that elastomeric grommets are utilized with fasteners attaching the bracket flanges to the associated substrate. In order to distinguish between the fasteners securing the bracket, respectively, to the disk drive assembly and to the substrate, claims 7 and 15 have been amended to refer to the former as "first" fasteners, the latter being referred to in claims 22 and 23 as "second" fasteners.

The examiner contends that this arrangement is shown by Hoppal et al., referring to the grommets 506 in fig. 5. However, Hoppal et al. do not specifically disclose that their grommets are elastomeric. More importantly, the grommets 506 are for use with fasteners to attach the disk drive assembly to the bracket, rather than for the attachment of the bracket to the associated substrate. It has been found that the arrangement utilized by Hoppal et al. provides a less robust shock resistance than the claimed arrangement. Accordingly, this affords an additional reason for the allowance of claims 14 and 23.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that each of the remaining claims 2-23, as amended, is now patentable over the cited art and, accordingly, allowance of the application is respectfully asked.

Respectfully submitted,

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